



COPS *Fact Sheet*

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

www.cops.usdoj.gov

COPS Methamphetamine Initiatives

Background

The use of methamphetamine, a central nervous system stimulant often referred to by its street names, crank, speed, ice, or crystal, is expanding across the United States. Developed in clandestine laboratories often located in remote areas, methamphetamine is cheap and addictive. Methamphetamine spreads easily, encouraged by easy access to necessary precursor chemicals and simple preparation methods, and today methamphetamine labs can be found almost anywhere such as suburban settings, apartments, and hotels. The labs used to produce meth can range in size from small "mom and pop" labs to super-labs and pose serious health risks to law enforcement agents and to the citizens who live near them.

In Fiscal Year 2001 Congress appropriated \$48.3 million to fight the escalating methamphetamine problem. COPS is funding a variety of enforcement and training programs nationwide to areas with the greatest need for assistance in combating methamphetamine production, distribution, and use.

COPS funds are being used by the State of California to enhance a regional strategy that includes enforcement, training, child endangerment, and prevention through community awareness programs. COPS is also working with the Drug Enforcement Administration and several states to provide state and local law enforcement with training on the proper collection, removal, and destruction of clandestine methamphetamine laboratories.

COPS Methamphetamine Initiative

COPS Methamphetamine Initiative funds will be used to support a variety of enforcement, intervention, and prevention efforts. The efforts of the COPS Office focus on community policing approaches to methamphetamine reduction. Sites have been encouraged to develop partnerships with local agencies (e.g., EPA, fire departments, other local law enforcement, mental health, child protection teams, and local businesses) to combat the methamphetamine threat in their communities.

Nineteen jurisdictions are participating in the COPS Methamphetamine Initiative in 2001. The COPS Office will work directly with these agencies to craft innovative strategies, track and evaluate implementation, and disseminate results to the many other communities confronting similar challenges.

Funding in FY 2002

Appropriation bills are still pending in Congress. Information on funding opportunities for this grant program will be available at a later date.

Contact COPS

For more information, call the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center at 1-800-421-6770, or visit the COPS web site at: www.cops.usdoj.gov.